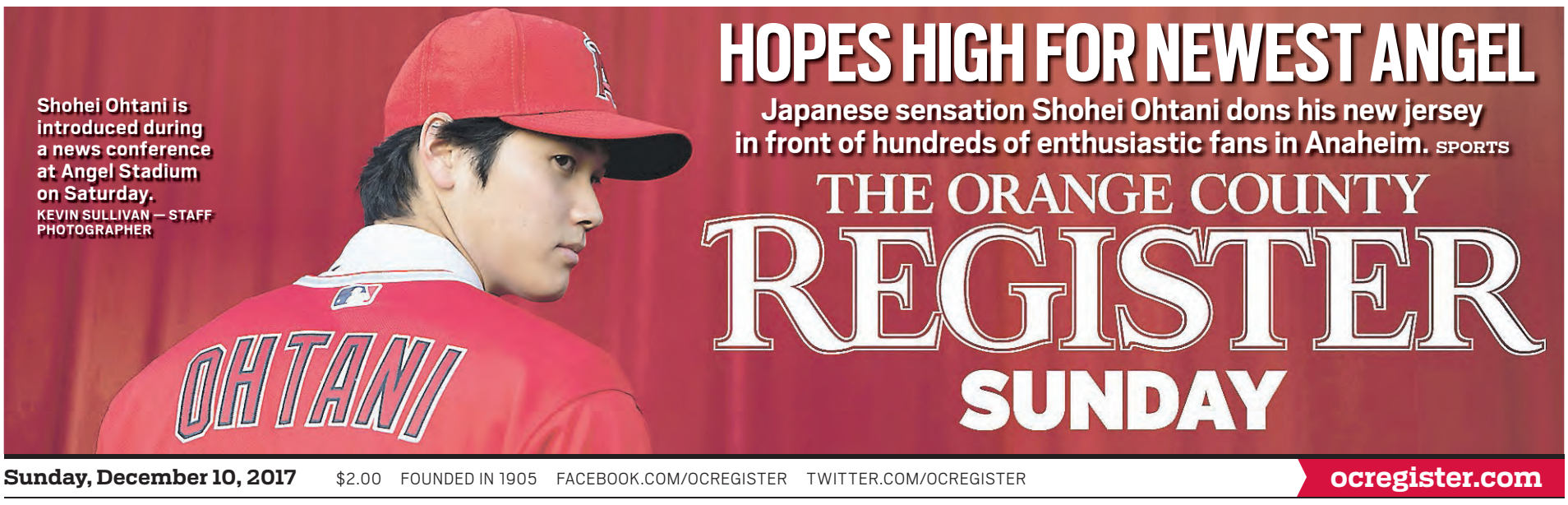

Shohei Ohtani is introduced during a news conference at Angel Stadium on Saturday. KEVIN SULLIVAN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HOPES HIGH FOR NEWEST ANGEL

Japanese sensation Shohei Ohtani dons his new jersey in front of hundreds of enthusiastic fans in Anaheim. SPORTS

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER SUNDAY

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HOMELESS

PHOTOS: MINDY SCHAUER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A bicyclist swerves around people on the Santa Ana River Trail where the homeless congregate in Anaheim.

FEAR, LOATHING AND HOPE ON THE TRAIL

David Whiting
Columnist

After months of bureaucratic wrangling and hand-wringing over how to handle the homeless situation, the Santa Ana River Trail is more filthy, more hazardous and — OMG — more crowded than ever.

During a recent bicycle ride, I swerved to avoid a syringe. I threaded between homeless wanderers and compassionate volunteers handing out peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

I heard cyclists complain about unsafe and grossly unsanitary conditions. I heard homeless people yell at cyclists.

But I was not truly shocked until I rode past the Honda Center north of Katella Avenue. Since my visit last summer, the homeless population there has quadrupled.

Along the 30-mile stretch of asphalt are more than 700 makeshift shelters and more than 1,000 homeless people.

Kurt "Ryder" Hoefling is 56 years old, was born in Newport Beach and lives in a tent, complete with couch, commode and chandelier, between Katella and Ball Avenue. Standing on a large square of fake green turf and armed with a "Big Bertha" golf club, he bats old golf balls all the way across the Santa

WHITING » PAGE 4

As Angel Stadium looms in the background, Kurt "Ryder" Hoefling hones his swing while hitting golf balls in front of his Anaheim encampment. His accommodations include a couch, night stands, a "bathroom," and a putting green. "It don't really get better than this," he says. He has been homeless since 2001.

O.C. POLITICS

After decades, liberals no longer in shadows

By Martin Wisckol
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@MartinWisckol on Twitter

It started with the Women's March, the day after Donald Trump was sworn in as president.

The event, which took place in more than 400 U.S. cities, was touted as the country's largest single-day protest. And Orange County was one of many places where crowds exceeded expectations.

The estimated 20,000 people who hit the streets for the Santa Ana demonstration was the biggest left-leaning display in the

LIBERALS » PAGE 9

MISSISSIPPI

Despite calls to stay away, Trump speaks at ceremony

President Donald Trump's presence jolted the opening of a Mississippi civil rights museum, generating some boycotts and small protests. NEWS 12

HOME PRICES

Is the housing market headed for another bubble?

A new California Association of Realtors report concludes home prices will continue rising for some time. REAL ESTATE

ENVIRONMENT

Natural or plastic?

Experts who study consumer products are split on which kind of Christmas tree leaves the biggest carbon footprint. NEWS 3

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

RING OF FIRE?

Whether to build, how to protect

As residential neighborhoods extend deeper into wildlands, risk decreases when fire precaution is part of the blueprints

By Jeff Collins
JeffCollins@scng.com
@RegJeffCollins on Twitter

Twenty-four years later, Southern California firefighters still talk about the Miracle House on Skyline Drive.

The Laguna Beach street was lined with ash, rubble and solitary chimneys; all remnants of recently burned-out homes. But in the middle of the devastation stood a single white, stucco-sided home, its walls untouched and its volcanic pumice roof unscathed.

The house was the sole survivor on Skyline during the 1993 Laguna Beach fire, which took 366 homes.

Firefighters say the miracle house is proof that homes — even homes built

HOUSING » PAGE 8

After the Laguna Beach fire tore through this Mystic Hills neighborhood in October 1993, one house stood out because it, well, still stood. The house, was spared because of its construction and landscape design. CHAS METIVIER — STAFF FILE PHOTO

INSIDE: Updates from the fires burning across Southern California. NEWS 6-7, 10

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